

Message Text

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TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: KIEV PROPERTIES

1. SUMMARY - IN VISIT SEPTEMBER 7-9, PORTER AND WHITE DEVOTED FULL TIME TO LENGTHY, BUT FRUITFUL MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS SOVIET SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL ON SITE AT FLORENTSIYA. RENOVATION CONTINUES TO PROCEED AT FAST PACE WITH SOVIETS EXPECTING TO COMPLETE BASIC WORK BY OCTOBER 1. EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION FINISHING SPECIALISTS ALSO VISITED SITE AND ARE READYING PROPOSAL FOR FINISHING WORK WHICH THEY COULD BEGIN IN EARLY OCTOBER. SIGNS OF IMPENDING ACTIVITY CONTINUE TO APPEAR AT GORKIY STREET. NO RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM STRELETSKAYA STREET. END SUMMARY.

2. ADVANCE PARTY MEMBERS VISITED KIEV PAST WEEK IN COMPANY WITH TWO CONTRACT SPECIALISTS IN KITCHENS, BATHS AND OTHER FINISHING WORK. WHILE SPECIALISTS CARRIED OUT SURVEY FOR FINISHING WORK PROPOSAL, US REPS MET WITH MORE THAN A DOZEN SOVIET SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL, MOST OF WHOM THEY HAD NOT SEEN BEFORE. DISCUSSIONS COVERED OUTSTANDING ELECTRICAL WORK AND WATER, GAS AND SANITARY PIPING. CONTACTS WERE FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE. RESULTING SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF DETAILS WAS REASSURING AS WAS CONTINUING SPEED OF ONGOING WORK AND GENERAL HIGH QUALITY OF RESULTS TO DATE.

3. STATUS OF WORK AS FOLLOWS: ROUGH FINISHING OF WALLS - 95 PERCENT COMPLETE; WIRING - VIRTUALLY COMPLETE; SLOSET CABINETRY - 95 PERCENT COMPLETE. SOVIETS STATED FORMALLY THEY EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK, INCLUDING PAINTING, AND PARQUET INSTALLATION AND SANDING BY OCTOBER 1. THEY INDICATED THAT PARQUET

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WOULD BE LAID THROUGHOUT APARTMENTS, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME AREAS, I.E. INTERIOR HALLWAYS, WOULD NOT RECEIVE PARQUET.

4. THERE CONTINUE TO BE SOME DIFFERENT POINTS, BUT SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY WARMING TO NEED TO WORK OUT ANSWERS. AS ONE SOVIET SUPERVISOR NOTED, " WE SHOULD HAVE BEGUN PROJECT WITH TECHNICAL CONTACTS." US REPS AGREE AND BELIEVE GOOD BASIS IS BEING LAID AT FLORENTSIYA FOR OTHER REMODELING AHEAD. ONE EXPLANATION FOR FITFUL BEGINNING AT FLORENTSIYA IS FACT THAT AMERICAN PROJECT IS FIRST TO BE TOTALLY MANAGED BY KIEV UPKK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PREVIOUSLY UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CARRIED RESPONSIBILITY. ALSO HELPFUL THIS WEEK WAS EFFECTIVE LIAISON WORK OF UPKK CHIEF SACHENKO, SUBBING FOR ABSENT RUDENKO.

5. EMBASSY'S BRITISH CONTRUCTION CONTRACTORS, BASED ON THEIR SURVEY OF FLORENTSIYA, EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO OFFER SHORTLY PROPOSAL ON FINISHING WORK. CONTRACTOR ESTIMATES 6-8 WEEKWORK PERIOD, RESULTING IN PROSPECTIVE LATE NOVEMBER COMPLETION DATE.

6. VISIT TO GORKIY STREET REVEALED CONSTRUCTION SITE PERIMETER FENCE IN PLACE IN REAR YARD. WE EXPECT GUTTING OF BUILDING TO BEGIN SHORTLY.

7. STRELETSKAYA SITE AS YET UNDISTURBED BY ANY MOVEMENT OUT OF BUILDING. UPKK'S SACHENKO CONFIDED RESETTLEMENT WOULD BE DONE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS AND WOULD BE "VERY DIFFICULT." HE WOULD NOT GIVE ANY ESTIMATE ON TIMING.

8. PORTER AND WHITE PLAN VISIT KIEV AGAIN SEPTEMBER 13-16.

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